

Health Issues

Child Care

Teacher Notes

Generalizations

- 1 The family provides the primary environment for the growth and development of infants and young children; later, this setting is expanded to include the school and the community.
2. Some form of regular social contact, particularly with other children, outside the home environment is desirable for the pre-kindergarten child.
3. A variety of day-care or nursery school services is available in most communities.

Suggested student activities include: Concerns in Selecting Child Care

- List what should be considered in choosing a child care center.
- Identify kinds of child care centers available in the local community.
- Assess appropriate child care centers for a variety of family requirements.

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Knowledge Assessment

1. List five factors to consider when selecting a child care center.

2. Name and describe two types of day-care centers:

3. Name and describe two types of nursery schools:

4. Name and describe the services of two child care centers or facilities in your community:

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Important Concerns in Selecting Child Care

Assignment

1. Ask three people who have children in child care centers what was most important to them when they selected the child care center. List the reasons below:

Friend one:

Friend two:

Friend three:

2. Compile a complete list of important factors for selecting a child care center.
3. List the five factors most important to you when you select a child care center for your future child.

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Handout: Child Care Centers in the Community

Students' Directions

Read the following list of types of child care and general information:

Day-Care Centers

Daily care is available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for children of parents working or attending school. The emphasis is on care or baby-sitting.

- a. Business day-care centers – A large company may provide child care for employees.
- b. Private day-care centers – This kind of child care business is operated for profit.
- c. Private home day-care centers – Children are kept by someone in a private home.
- d. Publicly funded day-care centers – Child care is provided by the government, usually with a sliding scale fee for those unable to pay the full fee.

Nursery School

Early educational and social experiences for children are provided. Children usually attend for two or three hours per day for two to five days a week. The following are different kinds of nursery schools:

- a. Co-op – The staff is made up of a director and parents taking turns. Some co-ops offer parent education classes.

Advantages of a co-op:

1. The cost is lower.
 2. The parents are involved.
 3. The separation of the parent and child is delayed.
- b. Lab schools – These are operated by colleges and high schools to provide training experiences for students.

Child Care Centers in the Community (Continued)

Advantages of lab schools:

1. The cost may be lower.
2. The staff is young and enthusiastic.

c. *Private nursery schools* – Businesses are operated for profit by the director and staff.

Advantages of private nursery schools:

1. The staff is stable and consistent.
2. These schools must provide what parents want in order to stay in business.

d. *Head Start or other subsidized child care* – This care is provided to give economically disadvantaged children enriching experiences before they enter school.

Advantages of government-subsidized programs:

1. The cost is lower.
2. The schools are located in areas of need.
3. Parent education may be included.

e. *Church preschools* – These may be similar to private or co-op preschools, but they have a religious orientation.

Advantages of church preschools:

1. They may present religious orientation to the child.
2. The staff is stable and consistent.
3. These schools must present the program that parents want in order to stay open.

c. Locate four or more types of child care programs you believe are available in your home community. Fill in the "Survey of Child Care Available in Your Community. "

Create other questions that could be included in the survey of the kinds of child care, philosophy of education, education of teachers, and special programs offered; for example, cultural field trips, special education, or foreign language activities.

Child Care Centers in the Community (Continued)

d. Select a child care program you would choose in each of the following situations. Explain why.

a. You are divorced and have a six-month-old infant. You would like to continue your education at the local community college. You would choose:

b. Both you and your spouse work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You have enough money to pay for your three-year-old's child care, but you still need to watch the family budget carefully.
